

DO YOU NEED YOUR **TAXES DONE?**

ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE TO THOSE WHO QUALIFY

■ uman Services is partnering with AccountAbility Minnesota and AARP Tax-Aide to provide tax assistance through April 14 to those who meet income-qualifying guidelines of \$30,000 or less for individuals and \$50,000 or less for families. Taxpayers with complex tax returns are advised to seek paid tax assistance.

Help is provided on a first-come, first-served basis at Creekside.

For more information, call Human Services or visit the City's website.

WEBSITE KEYWORD: TAXES.

CARING FOR OUR CITIZENS

uman Services provides exceptional programs and services to community members of all ages. Some are described below, but all are contained in the Human Services Community Resource Catalog. You can learn about housing, financial and health services, recreation opportunities, and more. Pick up your catalog at Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, or Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Avenue South, or find it online.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: RESOURCE CATALOG.

For more information, call Human Services at 952-563-8733 or TTY 952-563-8740. To sign up for e-mail updates, scan the QR code at right or go to our website, click on *E-Subscribe* and subscribe to "Human Services."

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: HUMAN SERVICES.



VOLUNTEER WINS NATIONAL CONTEST

oet and volunteer Jerry Neren was awarded *Pearl* magazine's Pearl Poetry Prize for his book "Once Upon a Time in Vietnam." Neren will be hosting a reading on Saturday, May 19, 2 - 4 p.m., at Creekside, which will feature students from his class reading their own poems. Registration is not required for this free event.

INSPIRING CREATIVITY ANNUAL POETRY CONTEST

■ uman Services' Senior Program is accepting poems for its Third Annual Poetry Contest, beginning May 1. Older adults and younger persons with a disability are encouraged to submit up to two poems of any length and genre. Typed and handwritten poems will be accepted. Entries must be received by Friday, July 6.

Awards will be given for first through third place. A reception for contest winners and participants will be held at Creekside, Saturday, August 18, 4 - 6 p.m.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY **CELL PHONE DONATIONS NEEDED**

o you have a cell phone you no longer use? To donate a working cell phone that was purchased within the last five years, drop it off at Creekside.

CenturyLink Pioneers' volunteers will clear the phones of personal data and reprogram them to call 911.

The phones will be provided at no charge to Bloomington residents ages 55 and older or individuals with medical conditions who need them.

CALL HOME

FOR HELP WITH YARD WORK

OME program (Household and Outdoor Maintenance for the Elderly) volunteers are available to help senior citizens with raking and general yard work April - May. For more information, call 952-888-5530.

DIVERSITY DAY **VOLUNTEER FOR PEACE**

undreds of Bloomington high school students, staff and community members will run, walk and roll from Kennedy to Jefferson High School on Friday, May 4, 10 a.m., to promote peace. Each school observes Diversity Day week with presentations and activities. In 2011, more than 300 students from the high schools participated in the peace run.

Adult volunteers are needed to assist along the race route. For more information, call Human Services.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: DIVERSITY DAY.



ON PATROL

CONNECTED COMMUNITIES **GET TO KNOW NEIGHBORS**



re you connected? One way Athe Bloomington Police Department (BPD) connects with residents is through the Neighborhood Watch program and ongoing communication with block captains who serve as advocates for their neighborhoods.

BPD's Crime Prevention Unit will host its annual Block Captains' Workshop, Saturday, April 14, 9 a.m. - noon, at Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road.

This year's theme is "Connected Communities." Hennepin County Attorney Michael Freeman will be keynote speaker and Bloomington **Communications Administrator** Janine Hill will discuss tools the City uses to communicate with residents.

Neighborhood Watch

For information, contact Officer

SAFETY MATTERS

MEET A VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER SPOTLIGHT ON BFD CAPTAIN PAUL GOODWIN

Jolunteer firefighting often runs in families. At least that's the case for 15-year Bloomington Fire Department (BFD) veteran Paul Goodwin.

Goodwin, a North Dakota native, has two uncles who were firefighters.

"Both were positive influences on me," said Goodwin. "I have fond memories of their stories when I was young."

In addition to serving as fire captain for Bloomington Fire Station 6, Goodwin works full time as an information technology project manager for Eden Prairiebased Supervalu. He admits that, like many volunteer firefighters, balancing a career and BFD commitments can be tough.

"When I'm on the scene of a fire, for a brief moment, I'll have this overwhelming desire to be anywhere else," Goodwin said. "That moment doesn't last long. You know you need to get in there and stop the situation from getting worse."

Visit our website for more information on becoming a volunteer firefighter.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: FIRE VOLUNTEERS.

DON'T GET BURNED TAKE FIRE SAFETY SERIOUSLY

recreational fire is an outdoor fire used for cooking, warming or ceremonial purposes. Recreational fires are permitted with the following conditions:

- Only use clean, dry wood.
- Firewood stacks cannot exceed three feet in diameter by two feet high.
- Fires must be located at least 25 feet from combustible structures or materials.
- Extinguishing equipment must be readily available.
- No fires from midnight to 7 a.m.
- A recreational fire must be immediately extinguished if an official determines it is creating a fire safety hazard.

For more information, call Fire Marshal Gene Dugal at 952-563-8967.



GET OUT AND STAY OUT A SAFETY REMINDER FROM FIRE **PREVENTION**

n the event of a fire, whether large or small, remember these words: Get out and stay out. Never go back and look for people or pets. Never try to fight a fire in a home that is beyond its starting phase. Always remember to call 911 from outside of your home.

Coordinator and BPD Officer Niki Pierson retired at the beginning of the year after 20 years of service. Pierson's replacement will be announced at the workshop.

PHONE FROM BIGSTOCKPHOTO.COM

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LET'S FLY KITE DAY IS COMING

Ite flyers of all ages are invited to the annual Kite Day celebration. Kite Day is a free event that takes place Saturday, May 5, 1 - 4 p.m., at Valley View Playfield, 90th Street and Portland Avenue.

This fun-filled event honors Children's Day in Japan and will feature live entertainment, food, kites of all sizes and colors, and more. Bring your own kite or pick up a free one at the event. Prizes will be awarded.